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Papillon: The butterfly effect of magnificent food

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Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

Washington state to decriminalize drugs unless lawmakers act

By GENE JOHNSON
Associated Press
SEATTLE (AP) — Washington Gov. Jay Inslee is calling lawmakers back to work after they rejected a bill setting out a new state-wide drug policy — a development that has put the state on the brink of decriminalizing possession of fentanyl and other drugs while also depriving it of much-needed investments in public health. Lawmakers adjourned their regular session late last month after voting down a bill that would keep drug possession illegal and boost services for people struggling with addiction. Many liberal Democrats objected to criminalizing drugs, while conservative Democrats and Republicans insisted they must be to provide incentive for people to enter treatment. Inslee has called that unacceptable, and on Tuesday he set a special legislative session beginning May 16 to give them another chance.



A volunteer cleans up needles used for drug injection that were found at a homeless encampment in Everett, Wash., Nov. 8, 2017.

Associated Press

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Washington state to decriminalize drugs unless lawmakers act

Continued from Front

"Cities and counties are eager to see a statewide policy that balances accountability and treatment, and I believe we can produce a bipartisan bill that does just that," Inslee said.

A temporary law that makes possession of small amounts of drugs a misdemeanor expires on July 1, so if lawmakers fail to pass a bill, Washington would become the second state — after neighboring Oregon — to decriminalize drug possession. Cities and counties would be free to adopt their own approaches to drug possession and paraphernalia, creating a patchwork of laws that could undermine efforts to treat addiction as a public health issue.

Lawmakers said Tuesday they were increasingly optimistic they can reach a compromise to avoid those consequences.

"I've cleared my schedule," said state Rep. Roger Goodman, D-Kirkland. "I'm working day and night on this."

Like other states, Washington has wrestled with what to do with an overdose crisis worsened by the widespread availability of cheap, deadly fentanyl. Public drug use is rampant in cities around the state, and deaths have soared.

Several Washington cities have already contemplated or passed new drug laws in the absence of legislative action. Seattle City Attorney Ann Davison and two City Council members, Sara Nelson and Alex Pedersen, have proposed a ban on public use.

"Our hands-off approach to people using illegal drugs in public has resulted in rampant street crime and



Patients line up to pick up medication for opioid addiction at a clinic in Olympia, Wash., on March 27, 2020.

a death toll rivaling that of COVID-19 in Seattle," Nelson said in a statement. "Complacency is no longer an option."

The Washington Supreme Court in 2021 struck down the state law making drug possession a felony. The court said it was unconstitutional because it did not require prosecutors to prove that someone knowingly had the drugs. Washington was the only state in the country without that requirement.

In response, lawmakers that year made intentional drug possession a misdemeanor and required police to refer offenders to evaluation or treatment for their first two offenses — but there was no obvious way for officers to track how many times someone had been referred, and availability of treatment remained inadequate.

Lawmakers made the measure temporary — having it expire July 1, 2023 — to give themselves two years

to come up with a long-term policy.

But as this year's session ended late last month, a measure billed as a compromise was voted down in the Democratic-controlled House 55-43. It would have increased potential penalties for drug possession, making it a gross misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail, rather than a misdemeanor punishable by up to 90 days.

It also would have eliminated the requirement that police refer a person's first two offenses for treatment rather than prosecution, enabling officers to arrest someone for a first offense if they thought it appropriate, while also encouraging police and prosecutors to divert cases. Judges could impose jail time for people who refuse treatment or repeatedly fail to comply.

It would have made clear that public health workers could not be prosecuted for giving out drug para-

phernalia, such as clean glass tubes for smoking fentanyl.

And it would have included funding for drug crisis centers; a pilot program for health engagement hubs where users could access clean drug paraphernalia and connect with other services; and expanded access to withdrawal medication in jails and prisons.

Without those provisions of the bill being passed, the state's approach to drugs amounts to "an entire diversion system with nothing to divert people to," said Caleb Banta-Green, a research professor at the University of Washington School of Medicine.

"We need \$50 million to \$100 million statewide and a health engagement hub in each county, and we could cut deaths in half in a year," he said. "We know what to do."

Democratic and Republican lawmakers agree on the need to increase services, with many saying

they have no intention of returning to the punitive approach of the war on drugs.

But Republicans objected that the bill did not do enough to ensure accountability for offenders; would preempt local bans on drug paraphernalia; and would create recovery residences where those trying to maintain sobriety might stay with those who continue to use drugs.

"I want these people to get better," said Rep. Greg Cheney, R-Battle Ground, a lawyer with experience in drug courts, said during a floor debate last month. "But not requiring them to acknowledge they have a problem is not the right path to go."

Many liberal Democrats, meanwhile, said they were opposed to making drug possession a crime at all. Rep. Tarra Simmons, of Bremerton, who spent time in prison on drug charges before becoming a lawyer and a lawmaker, said she was willing to vote to make it a misdemeanor as part of a compromise that would increase services.

But a gross misdemeanor is actually worse than its old status as a felony, she suggested, because the felony came with a sentencing recommendation of zero to six months for the first three offenses; the gross misdemeanor is up to a year in jail. Judges in municipal courts around the state could keep punishing those struggling with addiction, she said.

"It was really hard for me not to vote for all the good things in that bill," Simmons said. "But we don't need to cause people more pain in order to help them." □

Relatives of Americans held abroad seek action from Biden

By ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Relatives of Americans detained abroad gathered outside the White House on Wednesday to urge the Biden administration to do more to bring their loved ones home. They said they wanted more direct access to President Joe Biden to be able to better make their case.

The meeting unfolded against the backdrop of high-profile prisoner releases over the last year, including of WNBA star Brittney Griner in Russia, civilian contractor Mark Frerichs in Afghanistan, a group of oil executives in Venezuela and Paul Rusesabagina of "Hotel Rwanda" fame.

But dozens of Americans still remain held overseas by foreign governments, and the recent arrest in Russia of Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich has drawn fresh attention to their plight and underscored how hostage diplomacy remains a persistent, national security priority for the U.S.

"Seeing all these people come home in the last year, I think it shows us that it's possible. There just needs to be the will from the president, from the highest lev-



Joey Reed, father of Trevor Reed, speaks outside the White House in Washington, Wednesday, May 3, 2023, asking the Biden administration to help free hostages and detainees.

Associated Press

els of our government to bring our families home," Harrison Li, whose father, Kai Li, has been imprisoned in China since 2016, said in an interview before the event.

But he noted that for all the countries where the U.S. has had recent success, China is not one of them. Also attending Wednesday's event were some of the Americans who'd been freed over the last year, including Trevor Reed, a

Marine veteran released by Russia in an April 2022 prisoner swap for a Russian pilot convicted in a drug trafficking conspiracy case. In the weeks before Reed's release, his parents scored a meeting with Biden and also demonstrated outside the White House. "When he called us," said Reed's father, Joey, "it meant everything to us. I mean, it gave us a complete new perspective and an ability to hang in there until he

brought our son home." Months after Reed was released, the U.S. brought home Griner in a separate one-for-one swap involving convicted arms dealer Viktor Bout. Griner was not present Wednesday, instead participating in a media day for her WNBA team. She has emerged as an emissary for the hostage and detainee community, using her star status to raise attention for others left behind, including Gershkov-

ich and another American in Russia, Paul Whelan.

Hannah Sharghi, whose father, Emad, has been held in Iran since 2018 on espionage charges her family says are false, pleaded with Biden to bring her father home so that "he is able to be my dad again," instead of a diplomatic "pawn."

"We have asked for a meeting with the president for so long now that I frankly don't know how else to ask or what else to say," she said.

Roger Carstens, the U.S. government's special presidential envoy for hostage affairs, said in an interview on CNN this week that efforts to bring home detained Americans continue regardless of whether a family speaks to Biden. He said that of the 27 people the U.S. has brought home in the last two years, only two have families that have met with the president.

"The real metric, the real measure of success, is whether someone comes home, steps on a tarmac on U.S. soil and falls into the loving arms of their family," he said, adding, "Whether the president speaks to a family or not doesn't stop the machinery of trying to get the job actually done." □

GOP subpoenas FBI for Biden records; WH denounces 'innuendo'

By FARNOUSH AMIRI
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A top House Republican subpoenaed FBI Director Chris Wray on Wednesday for what he claimed are bureau records related to President Joe Biden and his family, basing the demand on newly surfaced allegations he said an unnamed whistleblower made to Congress.

The White House said it was the latest example in the yearslong series of "unfounded, unproven" political attacks against Biden by Republicans "floating anonymous innuendo."

Kentucky Rep. James Com-

er, chairman of the House Oversight Committee and Accountability, is seeking a specific FBI form from June 2020 that is a report of conversations or interactions with a confidential source. Comer, in a letter to Wray with Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa, said that "it has come to our attention" that the bureau has such a document that "describes an alleged criminal scheme" involving Biden and a foreign national "relating to the exchange of money for policy decisions" when Biden was vice president and includes "a precise description" about it.

The subpoena seeks all so-called FD-1023 forms and accompanying attachments and documents.

The lawmakers used the word "alleged" three times in the opening paragraph of the letter and offered no evidence of the veracity of the accusations or any details about what they contend are "highly credible unclassified whistleblower disclosures."

Comer and Grassley said those "disclosures" demand further investigation, and they want to know whether the FBI investigated and, if so, what agents found. □



FBI Director Christopher Wray testifies before the House Appropriations subcommittee Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies budget hearing for Fiscal Year 2024, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, April 27, 2023.

Associated Press

FTC: Facebook misled parents, failed to guard kids' privacy

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY**
AP Technology Writer

U.S. regulators say Facebook misled parents and failed to protect the privacy of children using its Messenger Kids app, including misrepresenting the access it provided to app developers to private user data. As a result, The Federal Trade Commission on Wednesday proposed sweeping changes to a 2020 privacy order with Facebook now called Meta that would prohibit it from profiting from data it collects on users under 18. This would include data collected through its virtual-reality products. The FTC said the company has failed to fully comply with the 2020 order.

Meta would also be subject to other limitations, including with its use of face-recognition technology and be required to provide additional privacy protections for its users.

"Facebook has repeatedly violated its privacy promises," said Samuel Levine, director of the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection. "The company's reckless-



This photo shows the Facebook's Messenger Kids application on an iPhone in New York, Feb. 16, 2018.

Associated Press

ness has put young users at risk, and Facebook needs to answer for its failures."

Meta called the announcement a "political stunt."

"Despite three years of continual engagement with the FTC around our agreement, they provided no opportunity to discuss this new, totally unprec-

edented theory. Let's be clear about what the FTC is trying to do: usurp the authority of Congress to set industry-wide standards and instead single out one American company while allowing Chinese companies, like TikTok, to operate without constraint on American soil," Meta said

in a prepared statement. The Menlo Park, California company added that it will "vigorously fight" the FTC's action and expects to prevail. Facebook launched Messenger Kids in 2017, pitching it as a way for children to chat with family members and friends approved by their parents.

The app doesn't give kids separate Facebook or Messenger accounts. Rather, it works as an extension of a parent's account, and parents get controls, such as the ability to decide with whom their kids can chat.

At the time, Facebook said Messenger Kids wouldn't show ads or collect data for marketing, though it said was necessary to run the service.

But child-development experts raised immediate concerns.

In early 2018, a group of 100 experts, advocates and parenting organizations contested Facebook's claims that the app was filling a need kids had for a messaging service. The group included non-profits, psychiatrists, pediatricians, educators and the children's music singer Raffi Cavoukian.

"Messenger Kids is not responding to a need it is creating one," the letter said.

"It appeals primarily to children who otherwise would not have their own social media accounts." □

1 dead, 4 hurt in shooting inside Atlanta medical facility

By **JEFF AMY**
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Police said a man opened fire inside the waiting room of an Atlanta medical facility, killing one woman and injuring four others Wednesday as authorities swarmed the city's bustling midtown neighborhood in search of the 24-year-old suspect. Shortly after noon, police were called to the Northside Medical building on West Peachtree Street in a commercial area with many office towers and high-rise apartments.

Atlanta police said the suspected shooter is believed to be Deion Patterson and that he was considered armed and dangerous. Authorities put out a photo of Patterson showing his face and asked anyone with in-

formation about his whereabouts to call 911 and not approach him.

Atlanta Police Chief Darin Schierbaum told reporters that a 39-year-old woman was pronounced dead at the scene. The four injured victims were also women,

aged 25, 39, 56 and 71. The four injured women "are fighting for their lives at Grady Hospital," Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens said during a news conference. Schierbaum added that Patterson's family is "being cooperative" with investi-

gators. In a statement, the U.S. Coast Guard said Patterson had joined the service in 2018 and was discharged from active duty in January. He was an electrician's mate second class at the time.

Four hours after the shooting, police said they believed Patterson had left the area. They lifted a shelter-in-place advisory, but asked people to stay away from the area due to the active investigation.

"This is a very active search," Schierbaum said. "We're following up on credible leads that are currently active in Cobb County, as well as some here in the city."

Atlanta police said they are aware of a carjacking that happened not long after

the shooting a few blocks away. They said the vehicle has been recovered in suburban Cobb County, and they were working to determine whether the vehicle was connected to the shooting.

Crime Stoppers was offering a reward of up to \$10,000 for information leading to the arrest and indictment of the suspect.

The shooting comes as cities around the U.S. have been wracked by gun violence and mass shootings in 2023.

In surveillance photos released by police, the suspect was wearing dark pants and a light colored hoodie with the hood pulled up. He had a mask on his face and appeared to be wearing a bag across his front. □



Law enforcement officers arrive near the scene of an active shooter on Wednesday, May 3, 2023 in Atlanta.

Associated Press

Germany, Italy clamp down on Italian mob with raids, arrests

By KIRSTEN GRIESHABER
and NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Police across Europe arrested dozens of people, raided homes and seized millions of euros in assets on Wednesday, in a coordinated crackdown on Italy's 'ndrangheta organized crime syndicate, one of the world's most powerful, extensive and wealthy drug-trafficking groups.

The operation, coordinated by European Union judicial cooperation agency Eurojust, aimed to dismantle a network that includes the 'ndrangheta, Colombian drug producers and paramilitary groups, and moves tons of cocaine to Europe and Australia each year.

The investigation uncovered how these networks used ports in Ecuador, Panama and Brazil to ship the Colombian drugs to northern European ports while also dealing in weapons. The drug proceeds were then laundered through restaurants, ice cream shops and car washes, and money sent back to Colombian drug producers via a Chinese wire transfer



A police officer gets into a car with an arrested person during a raid on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, in Hagen, Germany.

Associated Press

service, according to Italian officials and a Carabinieri press release.

"With today's coordinated measures across Europe, law enforcement authorities have dealt a serious blow to the 'ndrangheta," German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser said. "Today's raids are one of the largest operations to date in the fight against Italian organized crime."

In Italy, Carabinieri police

backed by helicopters said arrest warrants were served on 108 people, who were accused of mafia association; possession, production, and trafficking of drugs and weapons; money laundering; and other crimes.

One of the key figures in the network was a former powerful boss, Rocco Morabito, who was arrested in 2021 in Brazil after nearly 20 years as a fugitive.

The investigation also confirmed the enduring strength of a handful of well-known 'ndrangheta clans that operate in the Calabrian town of San Luca.

In Germany, more than 1,000 officers searched dozens of homes, offices and stores in the states of Bavaria, North Rhine-Westphalia, Rhineland-Palatinate and Thuringia, prosecutors said in a joint statement. □

U.N.: 258 million people faced acute food insecurity in 2022

ROME (AP) — More than a quarter-billion people in 58 countries faced acute food insecurity last year be-

cause of conflicts, climate change, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's war in Ukraine, ac-



Nunay Mohamed, 25, who fled the drought-stricken Lower Shabelle area, holds her one-year old malnourished child at a makeshift camp for the displaced on the outskirts of Mogadishu, Somalia on June 30, 2022.

Associated Press

cording to a report published Wednesday.

The Global Report on Food Crises, an alliance of humanitarian organizations founded by the U.N. and European Union, said people faced starvation and death in seven of those countries: Somalia, Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Haiti, Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen.

The report found that the number of people facing acute food insecurity and requiring urgent food aid 258 million had increased for the fourth consecutive year, a "stinging indictment of humanity's failure" to implement U.N. goals to end world hunger, U.N. Secretary-General An-

tónio Guterres said.

While the increase last year was due in part to more populations being analyzed, the report also found that the severity of the problem increased as well, "highlighting a concerning trend of a deterioration."

Rein Paulsen, director of emergencies and resilience for the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, said an interplay of causes was driving hunger. They include conflicts, climate shocks, the impact of the pandemic and consequences of Russia's war in Ukraine that has had an impact on the global trade in fertilizers, wheat, maize and sunflower oil. □

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Israeli airstrikes on Gaza kill Palestinian as violence ebbs

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli airstrikes on the Gaza Strip killed a 58-year-old man and wounded five others on Wednesday, Palestinian health officials said, even as the latest spasm of violence between Israel and Palestinian militants in the enclave appeared to ebb. Israeli fighter jets struck targets in Gaza in response to salvos of rockets launched by Palestinian militants at Israeli territory on Tuesday. But after sunrise, the violence seemed to subside as both sides signaled they wanted to avoid a wider conflict. The exchange erupted when a prominent Palestinian detainee died in Israeli custody after an 87-day hunger strike. The death of Khader Adnan, 45, a leader of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad militant group credited with popularizing hunger strikes as an effective form of activism, reverberated across the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, where he is revered as a national hero. Protests erupted at Israeli military checkpoints and a general strike shuttered stores across the territories. Palestinians and rights



Palestinians inspect the ruins of the house of Palestinian militant, Mohammad Souf, that was demolished by Israeli troops in the West Bank village of Haris, Wednesday, May 3, 2023.

Associated Press

groups have blamed Israel for his death, accusing prison authorities of medical negligence. London-based Amnesty International on Wednesday described Adnan's treatment in Israeli prison as "inhumane" and "degrading," citing a doctor who visited his cell and said authorities rebuffed his requests for medical attention. Israel's prison ser-

vice claims Adnan refused medical treatment until it was too late. Palestinian militants in Gaza fired 100 rockets into southern Israel late Tuesday, seriously wounding a foreign worker at a construction site. The Israeli military said its warplanes struck tunnels, arms production sites and military installations belonging to the ruling Hamas mili-

tant group in Gaza.

The Israeli strikes sent shrapnel slicing through the house of 58-year-old Hashil Mubarak in Gaza City, his son Hatem said. As their roof collapsed, shards of metal struck Mubarak's chest, killing him, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry. Mubarak was rushed to the hospital and could not be resuscitated.

"We were sleeping at home safe and sound when we heard a giant explosion from a missile," Hatem recalled as mourners filled his neighborhood mosque and took turns bending down to kiss his father's forehead.

"He was martyred," he said.

After a quiet few hours, the Israeli military announced that residents in southern towns no longer needed to remain close to bomb shelters. Hamas spokesman Hazem Qasem thanked Palestinian militants for "confronting Israeli aggression and concluding the round of the conflict."

The U.N.'s envoy to the Mideast, Tor Wennesland, said he welcomed "the restoration of calm" after a violent 12 hours. "Had our efforts failed, we would risk being in the midst of another deadly escalation," he said. But not everyone welcomed the calm. Israel's far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir lambasted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over what he described as a weak response to the rocket fire from Gaza. □

Rights panel: Peru used excessive force to quell protests

By FRANKLIN BRICEÑO
Associated Press

LIMA, Peru (AP) — The Inter American Commission on Human Rights said Wednesday that Peru's military and police forces used excessive force to quell violent anti-government protests, and that they should be investigated as possible extrajudicial executions and massacres.

The commission, an autonomous arm of the Organization of American States, said the violations took place in several regions across Peru, but centered its investigation on the cities of Ayacucho and Juliaca. Those cities saw the largest number of deaths during

the protests from December through February to demand the resignation of President Dina Boluarte and members of Congress. Among violence detailed in the IACHR report was a fatal clash in Ayacucho on Dec. 15, when soldiers fired rifles at demonstrators who were trying to enter the Ayacucho airport, killing 10 civilians. The IACHR said it reviewed testimonies indicating that soldiers also fired shots outside the airport, hitting bystanders as well as people who were fleeing the confrontations. The report also found that 18 civilians died on Jan. 9 in Juliaca, including protesters, a brigade doctor and

a teen bystander. All of the victims died from bullets, pellets and blunt objects, according to the report.

The protests were carried out, for the most part, by Indigenous peoples and peasant communities, mainly from the southern regions of Apurímac, Ayacucho, Puno and Arequipa, which saw the highest number of victims.

The commission said the killings of protesters may have been extrajudicial executions and massacres and should be investigated "with due diligence and with an ethnic-racial focus." Monitoring the crisis in Peru, it concludes, requires "broad, genuine,



A phalanx of police face off with anti-government protesters seeking immediate elections, President Dina Boluarte's resignation, the release of ousted President Pedro Castillo and justice for protesters killed in clashes with police, on the Pan-American North Highway in Chao, Peru, Feb. 17, 2023.

Associated Press

and inclusive talks with an intercultural and territorial focus, where all the different groups in society are adequately represented." The unrest began in early December following

the arrest of Pedro Castillo, Peru's first president of humble, rural roots, following his widely condemned attempt to dissolve Congress and head off his own impeachment. □

Santa Rosa organizes another Farmers Market day on May 7th

(Oranjestad)—The famous Santa Rosa Farmers Market is back and bigger with a Public Day for the community of Aruba. This is set to take place on May 7th at the Department of Agriculture, Cattle and Fish Santa Rosa.

The Santa Rosa Farmers Market and Public Day gather local producers that set their tents and offer fresh produce to the community of

Aruba. The best part is that products are affordable. For this coming Saturday, there will be around tents of local farmers and producers offering fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as natural products for both hair and cuticles. There will of course also be aloe products, sweet treats and snacks.

During this Public Day event, the public can also enjoy different pre-

sentations about agriculture, raising cattle and fish. These presentation will be schedules in the morning up until the afternoon.

Of course we cannot forget to mention that there will also traditional meals for sale, including Cabrito Stoba (Goat stew), Comcomber Stoba (Aruban cucumber stew), Sanger Yena (Blood sausages), Pisca Hasa (Fried Fish) and much more.

Additionally, there will be fresh local bred meat for sale. These include pig meat and goat meat, that will be available at the farmers market.

It is also tradition during the Santa Rosa Public Day that we give recognition to those who have always contributed to the agricultural sector of Aruba. We also give recognition to the "friends of Santa Rosa",



those who contributed their support to the department or young people who are heavily involved in this sector.

The entire community of Aruba and visitors are officially invited this Saturday, May 7th 2023 to visit Santa Rosa for the Farmers Market and Public Day event, which starts at 9am and ends at 2pm. Santa Rosa is located at Piedra Plat 114A, Paradera.



Minister Ursell Arends introduces the seven cardinal points related to the new regulation of Aruparking

(Oranjestad)—As mentioned in our last edition of Aruba Today, the Minister of Transport, Ursell Arends, has reintroduced the system of parking meters through Aruparking. In a press conference yesterday, he announced the seven cardinal points related to the new regulation of Aruparking.

The minister explained that the reintroduction of Aruparking came after a study conducted by six state companies, including Arubus, and a third party company names PWC Nederland. In this study they have analyzed not only the advantages and disadvantages of reintroducing parking meters, but also the desire and need for it.

He also mentioned that there are three requirements that are of the utmost importance when it comes to the regulation of parking zones, which are "order, control and mobility." In terms of the seven cardinal points, the minister stated that these were created with the help of the Board of Advisory of Arubus and management of Aruparking. He also mentioned that these points are what distinguish Aruparking from what it used to be and what it is now. These points are as follows:

1. There will no longer be wheel clams used if the user has violated rules. Instead, there will be a team of parking officers will be checking parking zones regularly. Penalties will be dealt in a 75 florin ticket, or approximately \$40.
2. There are free parking zones. There is a total of 440 free parking zones around the L.G. Smith Boulevard area as well as around the area of the Arubus bus station.



3. There 24 parking spaces especially reserved for disabled or pregnant users, as well as for the elderly.
4. There are different ways to pay for your parking space. In this new regulation, you may pay with cash at the parking or online through pay.aw, which accepts any type of credit card. Smart Cards are no longer used, so if you still have money in your smart card, please contact Aruparking for an arrangement.
5. There is a new edition of parking called

"Stop and Go," where users who are only staying in the down town area of Oranjestad for a short time may only pay 1 florin for 30 minutes.

6. All yellow parking spaces are now white and thus open to the public. In the past, yellow parking spaces have caused a bit of confusion among the community as well as visitors. Luckily this time around, there will be no yellow spaces any more.

7. For special permits, for example for delivery trucks dropping off products for nearby shops, you may contact Aruparking to obtain this. This costs 150 florins, or approximately \$83. Paid parking is enforced from 9am to 7pm, from Monday to Saturday. Outside of these hours, parking spaces are completely free everywhere. In terms of marked parking spaces, please note that these are appointed spaces for government workers or other special users.

The reintroduction of Aruparking is currently only enforced in the down town Oranjestad area. Minister Ursell Arends has stated during the press conference that Aruparking is in its first phase of reintroduction, where they will be further evaluating the experiences of users and through this, consider if there must be additional modifications made to the system.

To end the conference, the minister shared his final message to the community of Aruba: "This are the steps we are taking to reintroduce Aruparking, keeping in mind that this was something that was petitioned for by the community and nearby businesses. With these new seven points, I hope that this may bring the necessary relief for regulated parking."

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Papillon: The butterfly effect of magnificent food



PALM BEACH — Do you remember the film “Papillon” starring Steve McQueen? Papillon restaurant is the island’s example where ‘life imitates art.’ The décor, especially the restrooms, was inspired by the movie. For more than a decade this restaurant has built a reputation with the fusion of classic French cuisine, Dutch and Caribbean flavors. Welcome in the world of wonders where **ambiance, taste and service come together and you feel you are being welcomed in the home of the owner and her team.**

“We find it really important that our guests have fun; can relax while listening to live music while their taste buds are being tickled by France, The Netherlands and the Caribbean. We offer a unique fusion of dishes and a night not to forget,” says owner Tina. As our special guest you can choose to dine inside our heartwarming airconditioned restaurant or we also offer outside dining on a cozy, elegant terrace with great ambiance of the surroundings. Perfect setting for an enjoyable time people watching while sipping on a delicious cocktail.

Fresh oysters, caviar and wild boar

You are on vacation, life is to enjoy! If you want something special, a different flow than the usual, then Papillon is the place to go. Foodies are in heaven here with classic French dishes such as Foie Gras, Frog Legs, fresh Oysters coming in on a weekly basis from Holland, Escargots, Dover Sole à la Meunière flown in from Europe and filleted at the table, Duck Breast seared on the skin, roasted and braised Lamb in Balashi beer and slow braised Wild Boar Shank. Do not



leave without trying the exclusive recommendation: Caviar! All of this combined with an extensive wine list from around the world makes Papillon a must-do on your Aruban vacation.

Let the music play!

Another reason to visit us is our Live Entertainment Schedule all through the week.

Get all cozy and warmed up on Sundays and Mondays by Marisella and her enchanting acoustic tunes accompanied by percussion only.

On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, Jairo will give you a real Saxophone treat while on Wednesday you can sit back, relax and enjoy your dinner while DJ Jason brings you the most smooth jazz and lounge music for a dreamy night.

The musicians interact with the guests & requests can be sent in.

The live tunes definitely add to the experience.

Vegetarian vibes present

Impressive vegetarian/vegan dishes are set up especially for the guests by the chef and Meredith from Vegan Aruba. “We offer vegan choices that are really good and tasty. Our daily soup is always vegan too”. What are you waiting for, make sure to pay a visit to this elegant yet laid-back restaurant while on Aruba. You are most welcome!

Chef’s Garden 6 course dinner by Papillon

Our one of a kind executive chef Juan Ludena gets extra creative outside the kitchen of Papillon Restaurant. Serving

a 6 course surprise menu featuring his International flavors and creativity with refined dishes, chef Juan Ludena is determined to give you a night to remember. Wine pairing is optional. The chef’s secret garden is located in a local replica of the Aruba traditional ‘cunucu’ house. The tropical garden is the setting for a magical in-home private dining experience.

For more information about this magnificent option, please send us an email or ask our wait staff.

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Why You Should Not Miss Aruba's Free City Center Street Car Tour

ORANJESTAD - Aruba's City Center Street Car - or as we call it in Dutch; "Tram van Oranjestad" - is a single track tram line in Oranjestad, the capital city of Aruba. It was inaugurated on 22 December 2012, being the first and so far the only passenger rail service on Aruba and the rest of the Dutch Caribbean.

There are two trolleys, a single-deck one with 42 seats and a double-decker with 64 seats. The line was inspired by the popular battery-powered streetcar operation at the Grove in Los Angeles, USA. Aruba's streetcars are powered by hydrogen fuel cells, which are charged by the island's year-round trade winds.

Caya Betico Croes, mostly referred to as our "main street" has been devel-

oped into a pollution-free pedestrian mall. The double-decker offers you a 360 degree view of the downtown area with a picture perfect scenery of the island's clear blue skies.

Who would not enjoy a ride on this beautiful and naturally air-conditioned vehicle? The tour consists of a total of 9 stops approximately 200 meters apart from each other; all stops are clearly marked. The tram will bring you close to different museums, historical plazas, monuments, the Protestant church, Aruba's high-end mall, retail shops, and a variety of local and international cuisine restaurants.

The "I love Aruba" trademark also belongs to that list. The third stop on the route is close to a 5-minute

walk to the famous Renaissance Marina showcasing luxurious yachts and Aruba's blue waters.

The "Tram van Oranjestad" starts from a balloon loop near the Port of Call and serves the downtown area and ends at Plaza Nicky. The first ride starts at 10:00 am sharp with intervals of 25minutes. The last trolley departs from the cruise port at 5:00 pm. Don't miss this tour of the beautiful Aruba's City Center - it is free for all!



beauty & THE BEACH

Aruba Today is delighted to share to its readers a new segment called "Beauty and the Beach", where we take a minute to honor our guests who have decided to spend their vacation on our beautiful and warm island.

In this edition, we'd like to give a shout out to Lisa and Joe from New Jersey. This is their third time on the island and they love the people, food and weather. Aruba is always proud to host all families and guests. We at Aruba Today encourage any visitor of the island to send in their pictures and/or messages; who knows? You might get on the cover!

This segment is sponsored by Alhambra Casino and Shops.

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Can I have a ..., please?

ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change?? How about a different breakfast from what you are used to at your hotel. Hop in your car, drive around and anywhere around the island you will come across a local snack shop.

Here you will find all types of snacks loved by the locals. Try a pastechi, a Caribbean pastry filled with cheese or meat and fried up deliciously. Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, a crusty little meat ball. A dedito is also a good option, it's a stick made out of cheese or hotdog. If you want to try something more familiar go for a homemade hamburger or a ham and cheese toast, but with a local touch. All these snacks are ridiculously addictive. Freshen up with a delicious fruit shake (batido) made out of watermelon, strawberry, banana, papaya or just mix any fruit together. What makes these little snack shops more attractive is the warmth of its people and with the smile you are being served. □



Rays of Hope: Strengthening Conservation Efforts for Manta Rays

Manta rays are highly charismatic creatures that inhabit the waters of the Dutch Caribbean. In addition to being a highly prized find for divers and snorkelers, they are also important for healthy oceans as they can help control plankton and cycle nutrients.

Manta rays are threatened by a variety of human activities. Luckily, increased protection for the giant oceanic manta ray in the Caribbean region will be considered in the next Conference of Parties for the Cartagena Convention (COPS) meeting later this year on Aruba.

Manta Rays in the Caribbean

The Caribbean is home to two species of manta ray, the giant oceanic manta ray (*Mobula birostris*) and Caribbean Manta Rays (*Mobula cf. birostris* - which will most likely be officially described in the coming years), as well as several species of devil rays. Manta rays are the largest type of rays. They pose no danger to humans.



by moving between the surface ocean, deep sea and coral reefs, they create a valuable ecological connection by transporting nutrients.

Threats

Manta rays are threatened by a variety of human activities. One of the biggest threats to these creatures worldwide is overfishing, as they are often targeted for their gill plates, used in Traditional Chinese Medicine.

and slow to reproduce. The age that giant manta rays are able to reproduce for the first time is estimated around 9-12 years old and manta rays only give birth to one pup at a time. The slow life cycle and low reproduction rate make manta rays extremely vulnerable to depletion.

Hope on the horizon

In the Dutch Caribbean, marine protected areas, such as the Yarari Marine Mammal and Shark Sanctuary, help protect manta and devil rays.

The species are also on several regional and international lists, such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species

of Wild Animals (CMS) and International Shark Strategy adopted by the Dutch Government (2019).

In addition, the Kingdom of Netherlands, along with the Republic of France, has formally submitted a proposal to include the giant manta in Annex II of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Protocol, a regional agreement for the protection and sustainable use of coastal and marine biodiversity in the Wider Caribbean Region. I

f approved during the next Conference of Parties for the Cartagena Convention (COPS) IGM20/COP17 this year on Aruba, this measure will provide a legal framework for the highest level of protection for the conservation of the giant manta ray.

Report your sightings

By submitting your (old and new) sightings of manta (and devil) rays, you can help researchers and conservationists learn more and better protect these species.

You can report your sightings via Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation Program or Observation.org and associated free app ObsIdentify- which will help you automatically identify the species by uploading your photos.

In addition, you could

also submit your photos via Mantatrust.org/IDtheManta, email (caribbean.islands@mantatrust.org) or through the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation

Program social media pages on Facebook and Instagram. If uploading images to social media, particularly Instagram, tag @CaribbeanislandsManta in your uploads to make sure these images are easily found and included in the global database.

DCNA

The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) supports science communication and outreach in the Dutch Caribbean region by making nature-related scientific information more widely available through amongst others the Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database, DCNA's news platform BioNews and the press.

This article contains the results from several scientific studies but the studies themselves are not DCNA studies.

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Photo: Oceanic Manta Ray in Aruba. Photo credit: Danielle de Kool



Jerwin Giel 8 years after cancer diagnosis: “I want to be an inspiration for others”

(Oranjestad)—The world celebrated World Cancer Day this past Saturday. This is a day to raise awareness and prevention for a disease that many lose their lives to and that others overcome and keep fighting.

Jerwin Giel is one a young man who around 8 years ago, had to confront the hardest challenge of his life when he was diagnosed with cancer. In an interview with Bon Dia Aruba, he shared his story and provided in sight on his life after his fight with testicular cancer at a young age. Giel said that everything started with a simple back pain. He was in and out of the doctor's office and received many medications for this pain, but nothing seemed to work

After that, he realized that his sperm production became scarce, and during one of his usual work outs, he felt a pain he had never felt before. In that same week, Giel said that he went to the doctor and explained his entire dilemma. “When the doctor assessed me, his eyes widened after I told him I had been experiencing back pain for several months now,” he said

He continued by saying that his general practitioner sent him to Dr. Moreta and asked him to do some blood work and make a CT scan of his back. However, Giel, young and rebellious, did not follow through with all his orders.

“I still remember the date, 13 or 16 of December I was in class and Dr. Moreta called to ask where I was. He told me to go to the hospital and take some pictures and bring them to him. That's when I knew that something was off,” he remarked

After taking his pictures, he went by the doctor's office and that is where he received the news that he



had stage 3-4 testicular cancer. “I told him to tell my family, because I'm a joker, and they wouldn't believe me if I told them,” He indicated. That became something Papillon looked forward to. It was a way to make it bearable,” he recalled.

Giel explained that at the same time, the doctor told him to get ready to go stay in the hospital, as they would be operating the next day to remove the tumor. After his operation, Giel spent Christmas with his family at home and had to undergo chemotherapy treatment the next week.

Every chemo cycle took 21 days, and Giel had to undergo 4 in total. He indicated that for 5 days straight, he had chemo. During those 5 days, he had to stay in the hospital and receive three bags of chemo. Fridays were always the hardest

“I always look for the good in bad situations, and I found out that on chemo day they give you whatever you want to eat, so

out and his lack of energy. “The chemo was so strong that I would taste it in my mouth and smell it whenever I went to the bathroom. It kills the bad cells, but also the good ones,” He added.

In terms of the physical effects of the chemo, he said that he felt them right away. From his first day of chemo, he noticed that his ears started ringing, like a firework went off right next to you. To this day, he still experiences this ringing “I see it as selective hearing now. Whenever I don't want to listen to someone, I just pretend that I can't hear them. Again, trying to see the good in all this,” Giel said.

He remembers the first time his hair starting to fall off. He recalls that he was in class, and he decided the same day to shave it off. Giel told the newspaper about one of his fond memories during the new year, where they let him light a firework outside the hospital parking lot. “During the process, I would see the positive and I stayed a happy person on the outside, but inside I was actually becoming miserable,” he remarked.

After he finished chemo, Giel shared that he thought

he was done, but two days later he was informed that he had to go to The Netherlands to operate. They did not tell him what type of operation it was in Aruba, but he found out when he arrived in The Netherlands.

“They told me that they would have to open me up to remove all of my lymph nodes, because they had become a teratoma. That meant that they found teeth, hair, nails etc.,” he stated.

Giel remarked that right before he entered the operation room, he cried for the first time. “I cried a lot, and I just couldn't stop, no matter how hard I tried. The nurses asked me to calm down, but I was hysterical; I just had to let everything out.”

Giel highlighted that even though he told his journey from his perspective, with a strong and positive mindset, he remarks that he could not have gone through it all without his supportive system. “I will forever be grateful for God and their help. I want to be inspiration for others. With a strong mindset, you can face any obstacle that comes your way.”



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Running capital
- 3 Peru's
- 4 Doesn't go to bed
- 5 Low card
- 10 Overlook
- 11 Sanity
- 12 Doll cry
- 13 Brought in
- 14 "Please explain"
- 16 Subtle pitch
- 20 Shows pride
- 23 Homer's bartending pal
- 24 Pens for hens
- 25 Relinquish
- 27 In the past
- 28 Horse restraint
- 29 Libertine
- 32 Battery
- 36 Second drink
- 39 District
- 40 Ring islands
- 41 Alley targets
- 42 Price additions
- 43 "Get lost!"

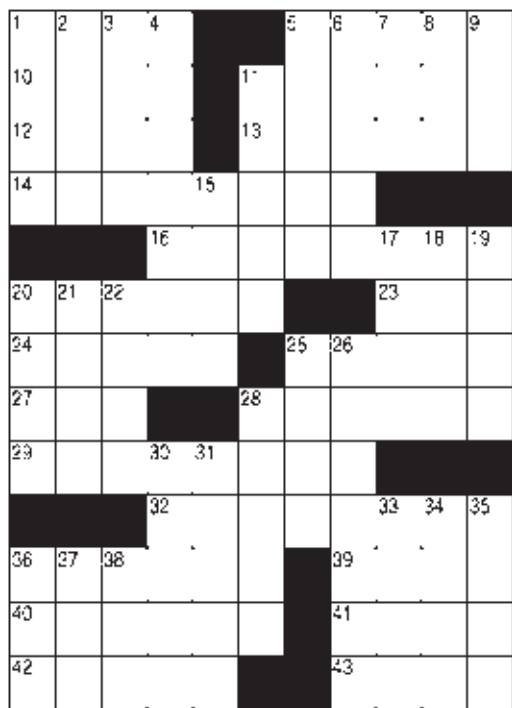
DOWN

- 1 Splendor
- 2 General Bradley



Yesterday's answer

- 8 Runner Sebastian
- 9 Cut off
- 11 Sailing hazards
- 15 Nursery group
- 17 Give off
- 18 Valentine word
- 19 Lewd look
- 20 Surgery memento
- 21 Forum wear
- 22 Corner piece
- 25 Mural spot
- 26 WHAT of "Girls"
- THIS
- CLUE
- IS IN
- 28 Shoe parts after
- 30 Submit zeta
- taxes
- online
- 31 Ship bodies
- 33 Rocker Clapton
- 34 Dunham
- 35 Final
- 36 Informer
- 37 Letter
- 38 Sly one



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-4 CRYPTOQUOTE

QZMMJN EZM E OPNS USEU

FINU NIYUSMZJMZN RIYXO REXL

E FPXM WIZ. — MOJE XMRPN
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: REMEMBER THAT INDIAN FOOD IS AS GREAT AS IT IS BECAUSE OF ITS MAGICAL USE OF SPICES. — MADHUR JAFFREY

Millennial Money: Trusts can aid those with mental illness

By ELIZABETH AYOOLA of NerdWallet

More than 50% of Americans will be diagnosed with a mental illness or disorder during their lifetime, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Chances are, some of these individuals will be inheriting wealth at some point.

If a family member's mental health issues may interfere with their ability to manage finances, answering these questions could help them create long-term financial stability.

HAVE I SET UP A TRUST?

Setting up a trust is one way to transfer wealth to a loved one and create financial stability for them. A trust enables you to leave specific instructions for trustees about how to care for your loved one and distribute assets.

Trusts can be especially helpful for transferring assets to loved ones who have a mental illness but are still able to function independently. While these loved ones are often independent, they may still have difficulty managing assets on their own, says Lillie Nkenchor, an attorney who does estate planning in New York. One example includes someone with depression.

"You can put assets in a trust," Nkenchor says. "It can simply be a trust that says, 'This money is to be used to take care of my sister who is high functioning, but is not great with money.'"

Likewise, you can request money be allocated to health care expenses and



In this Sept. 19, 2020 file photo, a couple stands on a jetty as the sun rises over the Atlantic Ocean in Bal Harbour, Fla.

Associated Press

anything else that helps them live a healthy and functional life. Having a trust in place can also help beneficiaries avoid probate, a court process for handling estates that could be stressful for someone who has a mental illness.

DOES MY LOVED ONE RECEIVE GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE?

Another important question to ask is whether the person receives government assistance or may need to in the future. While a basic trust may suffice for a loved one who has a mental illness but mostly functions independently, it could negatively impact one who doesn't and receives government assistance.

"We want to make sure that if we are caring for someone who's receiving that type of benefit, we don't accidentally leave them something that disqualifies them from that benefit," Nkenchor says.

People who receive government assistance may have limits on how much they can have in assets.

For instance, to be eligible for Supplemental Security Income through Social Security, they generally can't have resources of more than \$2,000 as an individual or \$3,000 as a couple. That is, unless you put those assets into a special needs trust. It's an estate planning tool for individuals with disabilities or functional needs.

"The special needs trust is meant to supplement government benefits that person is receiving. It doesn't replace it, it's meant to supplement it," Nkenchor says.

Nkenchor adds that a standard special needs trust isn't effective until the person who establishes the trust dies. So, if you plan to financially support your loved one while you're alive while they receive benefits, consider setting up a stand-alone special needs trust. Since setting up a special needs trust can be complicated, it's advisable you speak to a professional who specializes in this area. □

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Apple TV+'s 'Silo' is a look at a future of life underground

By **MARK KENNEDY**

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Dystopian storytelling goes underground this month with the arrival of Apple TV+'s "Silo," a gripping, ambitious tale of Earth's last population living far below the surface. Something terrible has happened to make the environment toxic so 10,000 people are hiding out in a massive, mile-deep underground silo until it's safe to come out. They grow food, maintain a huge generator for power and recycle everything.

But there's also a sense of dread down here, too, and secrets, mysteries and suspicious murders. What exactly happened to the Earth? What is this talk about a rebellion 140 years ago? Where are all the books? Can we trust what the government is saying?

"Life in the silo in many ways is pretty good. They're part of this cause, which is basically just to stay alive until the day that it is safe to go outside. So they feel that they've got this common mission," says creator and showrunner Graham Yost.

"But you just get a sense that there's been a slight eugenic program to try and breed out curiosity,



This image released by Apple TV+ shows Rebecca Ferguson in a scene from "Silo," premiering May 5.

independence, obstreperousness all those nasty human things. And you also get the sense that that's not going to succeed."

One of those rebelling is the 10-part series' heroine, a woman named Juliette, an engineer with a tragic childhood who seeks answers about the silo. She's played by Rebecca Ferguson, who says she was drawn to the work by its complexity.

"If you and I right now have to be stuck in a silo and we

have to evolve and survive, what would happen? It's sort of 'Lord of the Flies'-meets-Greta Thunberg-meets-the people who question the status quo. It'll be chaos," says the actor, known for "Dune" and the "Mission: Impossible" films. Based on Hugh Howey's bestselling trilogy, "Silo" also stars Tim Robbins, Common, David Oyelowo, Rashida Jones and Will Patton. The first two episodes drop Friday.

This is world-building that

slowly reveals itself. There are familiar things tattoo artists, cops complaining about paperwork and ice trays but also some different notes. Coins are square, suicide is a crime, and no one knows what a Pez dispenser is a so-called relic of the before times and so illegal to own.

The series contains two opposite philosophic ideas that mankind is good and it is society that makes it bad, and that men and women are born fundamentally

bad and society tames them.

The people inside the silo are told that outside has become a wasteland and so they've formed a system of government that can charitably be called a soft dictatorship, like East Germany in the 1980s. Anyone questioning the system is expelled sent out into what seems to be a wasteland where everyone inside watches them crumple and die within minutes. Or do they?

"While life in the silo isn't terrible, it's not great. There's something wrong and that battle between the truth and order is something that will play out over the whole series," says Yost.

There have been previous attempts to get Howey's books onto the big screen, but Yost thinks a 10-hour TV series is the best, including echoing the book by having Juliette only show up in the last few minutes of the first episode and take over. "It's bold. It makes sense," says Ferguson. "It's a story being built up around a world where you don't have to automatically see it through the lens of the character who's going to pull you through it. I love that in storytelling." □

Associated Press

Upon further review, Fox sets viewer record for Super Bowl

By **JOE REEDY**

AP Sports Writer

Upon further review, this year's Super Bowl ended up setting a viewer record. Nielsen released a revised number of 115.1 million for Fox Sports' broadcast of the Kansas City Chiefs' 38-35 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles in February. The previous record was the 2015 game between New England and Seattle at 114,442,000 viewers, not including streaming. It also supplanted the 2017 Super Bowl between Atlanta and New England (113,668,000) as the most-watched of Fox's 10 Super Bowls. Nielsen revised this year's original figure of 113.1 mil-

lion by 2 million after a review that revealed encoding irregularities as well as

issues with out-of-home measurement.

"I really appreciate their dil-



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) holds the trophy after their win against the Philadelphia Eagles in the NFL Super Bowl 57 football game, Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023, in Glendale, Ariz.

Associated Press

igence in conducting the review and coming to the most correct number possible. Super Bowl Sunday is the most difficult day for them because you have not just the scale but people are watching on English and Spanish, in and out of home, online and all of that has to be stitched together into a credible number. I give them credit for acknowledging the issue, being transparent about it and get to the most correct number they can get to," said Fox Sports Executive Vice President Michael Mulvihill, who is head of strategy and analytics. The review was initially triggered when NFL Network

was credited with over 1 million viewers during the game at a time when their usual number is 80,000. A second review found errors with out-of-home measurement.

The total includes the broadcasts on Fox and Fox Deportes as well as streaming on Fox and the NFL's digital sites.

"It was a little deflating when it seemed like we didn't get the record but now that we know that we did, it's validating. It gives us pride in the year that we had," Mulvihill said.

The numbers for Rihanna's halftime show were also revised from 118.7 million to 121 million. □

Triple Crown winner Secretariat still dominant 50 years on

By BETH HARRIS
AP Racing Writer

Secretariat had an unusually large heart, an engine that propelled him to a Triple Crown sweep 50 years ago. The colt nicknamed Big Red remains the heartbeat of an industry that has yet to see such dominance on and off the track replicated.

His name recognition, even among those who don't follow sports, is still strong 34 years after his death, and eight of his descendants will run in the Kentucky Derby on Saturday, including early 3-1 favorite Forte.

"He's still the bar to me," said Bob Baffert, who trained Triple Crown winners American Pharoah in 2015 and Justify in 2018. "I still ask strangers, 'Who's the best horse you ever heard of?' and I'm hoping they say Pharoah. They say Secretariat."

Secretariat won the Derby, Preakness and Belmont in record times that still stand, and ended a 25-year Triple Crown drought.

"It says he was beautifully prepared for each of those races, and his competition was not as good as he was," said Dave Johnson, track announcer for the 1973 Belmont in which Secretariat won by an astounding 31 lengths.



Jockey Ron Turcotte rides Secretariat during the 99th Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Ky. on May 5, 1973.

"He was a special animal." Big Red's path to Triple Crown glory began in the Derby. He was the first horse to cover the 1 1/4-mile distance in under 2 minutes with a time of 1:59.40. It would not be repeated until Monarchos clocked 1:59.97 in 2001.

Two weeks later, Secretariat broke last out of the starting gate in the Preakness. Jockey Ron Turcotte made a split-second deci-

sion in the first turn to swing Big Red to the outside in a rush to the front. They won by 2 1/2 lengths over Sham, who had also finished second in the Derby.

"I could make five, six moves with him in a race. A normal horse you could make one or two," Turcotte told The Associated Press by phone from his home in Canada.

"Down the lane I never asked him to run. He just

galloped to the wire very easily."

The Pimlico track's timing device showed Secretariat clocked 1:55 for 1 3/16 miles, but it had malfunctioned. It wasn't until 2012, at owner Penny Chenery's request, that the Maryland Racing Commission reviewed video and revised his time to 1:53, another track record.

Secretariat's popularity exploded in the three weeks

leading up to the Belmont. He became a pop culture phenomenon, appearing on the covers of Time and Newsweek while helping distract a nation dragged down by Watergate and the Vietnam War.

"He had just about everything," Turcotte said. "He was a good-looking horse, he was a very strong horse, had a long stride that covered a lot of ground, a very cooperative and generous horse. He would give you whatever you asked of him."

In the Belmont, Secretariat was the 1-10 favorite in the grueling 1 1/2-mile race against just four rivals, including Sham who was back for another try.

Secretariat went to the early lead along the rail and was soon challenged by Sham, ridden by Laffit Pincay Jr. The two horses were even through a half-mile at a blistering pace in what became a match race with the rest of the field about 10 lengths behind. Sham poked his head in front around the turn, but soon weakened. Secretariat began distancing himself from the field.

He ran the mile in 1:34.20 and reeled off 1 1/4 miles in 1:59, faster than his record time in the Derby. □

12-team CFP schedule includes New Year's Day tripleheaders



The championship trophy stands on a table during a news conference ahead of the national championship NCAA College Football Playoff game between Georgia and TCU, Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

By The Associated Press

The College Football Playoff released on Tuesday a schedule for the 12-team format that will be used in the 2024 and 2025 seasons, which will feature New Year's Day quarterfinal tripleheaders but no games played on Saturday.

CFP Executive Director Bill Hancock said last week after the board of managers had met in Dallas that the calendar had been decided upon. The final piece was placing games and sites on the dates. For the 2024 season, the first-round games played at campus sites are slated to

start with one Friday, Dec. 20. Three more games will be played on campuses on Saturday, Dec. 21. The quarterfinals are scheduled to be held at bowl sites on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. The Fiesta Bowl will be played on the night of Tuesday, Dec. 31. The Peach, Rose and Sugar bowls will host quarterfinal games on Wednesday, Jan. 1, played in that order. The semifinals are set for Thursday night, Jan. 9, 2025, at the Orange Bowl and Friday, Jan. 10 at the Cotton Bowl. The championship game is scheduled for Jan. 20 at Mercedes

Benz Stadium in Atlanta. The CFP schedule for the 2025 season, with opening rounds are set from Friday, Dec. 19 and Saturday, Dec. 20. The Cotton Bowl is set to be a quarterfinal on New Year's Eve. The New Year's Day tripleheader will be at the Orange, Rose and Sugar bowls. The semifinals are scheduled for the Fiesta Bowl on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026, and the next day at the Peach Bowl. The championship game is set for Monday, Jan. 19 at Miami Gardens, Florida. This upcoming season will be the last in which the CFP uses a four-team format. □

Embiid: MVP is validation, but NBA title is still the goal

By JIMMY GOLEN

AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Joel Embiid finally said it: Winning the NBA's Most Valuable Player award has been a dream ever since he belatedly started playing basketball.

"I know I've always said I don't care, but it was just for you guys to leave me alone," the 76ers center said Wednesday, a day after he was voted to his first MVP after two runner-up finishes. "I do care in the way that it validates everything, all the work that you've put in. And to be sitting here is just amazing."

A native of Cameroon who didn't pick up the sport until he was 15, Embiid was the 76ers' reward for tank-



Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid (21) shoots over Brooklyn Nets' Nic Claxton (33) during the first half of Game 3 in an NBA basketball first-round playoff series Thursday, April 20, 2023, in New York.

Associated Press

ing their way to the No. 3 overall pick in the 2014 draft.

But he missed two full seasons with foot injuries, leaving Philadelphia fans to wait while general manager Sam Hinkie insisted that they "Trust the Process."

Injuries continue to keep Embiid off the court to this day: He missed Game 1 of Philadelphia's second-round series against Boston and is officially listed as doubtful with a sprained knee for Game 2. Embiid said "it's a possibility" he would play on Wednesday night.

"Obviously, it's earlier than what we thought, considering what I had. We're just going to take day by day and see how it feels," he said after some light shooting on Wednesday morning. "It's a possibility, just like it was a possibility in the first game. Obviously, I want to play."

Comparing his life to a movie, Embiid said he originally took up basketball, thinking it might be a pathway to a college degree and a decent job. It earned him a scholarship to Kansas, where he wanted to redshirt as a freshman and stay for five years. When coach Bill Self told him there was no need, and he could be the No. 1 overall draft pick, Embiid didn't believe him.

"I didn't think basketball would take me anywhere," he said. "The probability of someone like me, who started playing basketball at 15, to get the chance to be the MVP of the league is I would say is probably 'negative zero,'" he said.

"We don't have a lot of opportunities to get to this point, in Africa in general. But improbable doesn't mean impossible," he said. "You can accomplish anything you set your mind to as long as you believe in it, and you keep working hard. Anything can happen." Embiid, 29, averaged 33.1 points to win his second straight scoring title, averaged 10.2 rebounds and tied a career high with 4.2 assists per game. □



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